

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 FDRE-00 IGA-01 MC-02 /057 W

----- 011564

O 150628Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2732

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

USSAG IMMEDIATE

JLO CAMP SAMAE SAN THAILAND IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, PINS, EAID, MASS, CB, US

SUBJ: REQUEST FROM GKR FINANCE MINISTER FOR CONTINUING US
ASSISTANCE

CAMBODIA - B NO. 22

1. SUMMARY.. DCM KEELEY TOOK TELEPHONE CALL FROM SAIGON
MORNING APRIL 15 FROM GKR FINANCE MINISTER KHY TAING LIM,
WHO EXPLAINED HE HAD FLOWN TO SAIGON ON KAF AIRCRAFT.
REASON FOR HIS CALL WAS TO REQUEST CONTINUATION OF MAXIMUM
LEVEL OF USG ASSISTANCE TO GKR POSSIBLE, SINCE GKR'S
DETERMINED TO FIGHT ON, THOUGH LIM DESCRIBED GKR'S
SITUATION AS CRITICAL. END SUMMARY.

2. GKR FINANCE MINISTER PHONED EMBASSY BANGKOK FROM
SOMEWHERE IN SAIGON MORNING 15 APRIL. DCM TOOK CALL,
ASKED LIM HOW SITUATION WAS IN PHNOM PENH. LIM SAID
SITUATION WAS "CRITICAL" BUT GKR'S MORALE WAS HIGH AND
THEY WERE DETERMINED TO FIGHT ON. BIGGEST PROBLEM,
LIM SAID, WAS THAT CITY WAS RUNNING OUT OF RICE. COULD
USG CONTINUE DELIVERY OF RICE TO CAPITAL, LIM INQUIRED.
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3. DCM REPLIED THAT AIRLANDS AT POCHENTONG ARE NOW OUT

OF THE QUESTION, BUT THAT WE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING AIRDROPS OF RICE AND AMMO INTO ENCLAVES. DCM ADDED THAT TEN C-130 AIRDROPS WERE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED APRIL 14 INTO ENCLAVES, BUT THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DROPPED INTO PHNOM PENH BECAUSE PRE-ARRANGED DZ HAD BEEN OBSERVED TO BE INUNDATED. DCM INQUIRED IF LIM COULD SUGGEST AN ALTERNATE DZ. LIM SAID BEST ONE WOULD BE THE OLYMPIC STADIUM. (COMMENT. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH MEDTC STAFF HERE INDICATES THAT STADIUM WOULD BE VERY BAD CHOICE BECAUSE TOO SMALL AND TOO CLOSE TO POPULATED AREA, MEANING THAT PEOPLE COULD BE KILLED OR INJURED BY BUNDLES FALLING OUTSIDE DZ. WE WILL ADVISE FANK IN PHNOM PENH OF INADVISABILITY OF USING STADIUM AS DZ WHEN WE NEXT CONTACT THEM. END COMMENT.)

4. DCM EXPLAINED THAT VERY LITTLE IN WAY OF MUNITIONS REMAINS FOR DELIVERY TO CAMBODIA BUT WE HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DELIVER WHAT REMAINS IN PIPELINE. AS FOR RICE, WE HAVE PLENTY AVAILABLE IN SOUTH VIETNAM, PLUS ABOUT 1000 TONS IN THAILAND, BUT PROBLEM IS HOW TO DELIVER IT TO CAMBODIA, PARTICULARLY PHNOM PENH, WHICH NEEDS ABOUT 600 TONS PER DAY. SINCE C-130'S CAN DROP JUST UNDER 15 TONS PER SORTIE, WE HAVE NO WAY OF DROPPING 600 TONS A DAY INTO PHNOM PENH WITH AIRCRAFT AND AERIAL DELIVERY ASSETS NOW AVAILABLE. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP DELIVERING RICE TO PHNOM PENH, DCM SAID, BUT MEANS ARE LIMITED AND THERE SEEMS NO WAY TO GET ENOUGH RICE IN TO KEEP FEEDING POPULATION FOR LONG.

5. LIM PLEADED THAT USG SHOULD KEEP HUMANITARIAN AID FLOWING INTO PHNOM PENH REGARDLESS OF DEVELOPMENTS AND DCM RESPONDED THAT THAT IS OUR CURRENT INTENTION. DCM ADDED THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITH PHNOM PENH ARE A PROBLEM, AND LIM SHOULD TRY TO COMMUNICATE WITH US AT EMBASSY BANGKOK AGAIN, TOMORROW IF POSSIBLE, THROUGH GKR EMBASSY BANGKOK OR OTHERWISE. LIM PROMISED TO TRY.

6. COMMENT: LIM SOUNDED AMAZINGLY CALM AND CONFIDENT, BUT STRESSED THAT RICE IS CRITICALLY SHORT. DCM
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EMPHASIZED POINT THAT MUNITIONS SUPPLIES ARE EVEN SCARCER, BUT LIM DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT AMMO LIKELY TO BE CRITICAL FACTOR IN HOW LONG GKR CAN SURVIVE, EVEN IF WE COULD DELIVER ALL RICE NEEDED.
END COMMENT.

7. FYI: THERE ARE THREE C-130 AIR DROPS OF RICE (14.6 TONS PER SORTIE) AND TWO AMMO (15 TONS PER SORTIE) SCHEDULED INTO PHNOM PENH TODAY. PLAN IS TO DROP BUNDLES ON DZ SOUTH OF POCHENTONG PREPARED EARLIER BY FANK AND

MEDTC.
MASTERS

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